

# Missouri State Highway Patrol

## Statistical Analysis Center



### Crime in Missouri 2017

#### Executive Summary

August 2018

## **FOREWORD**

This publication is produced by the Missouri State Highway Patrol Statistical Analysis Center and is intended to provide rudimentary analysis of Missouri's crime statistics.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol assumed management of the Missouri Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program in 2001. It is the responsibility of the UCR Program to collect, maintain, and ensure the integrity of Missouri's UCR crime statistics. In addition, the Missouri UCR Program is responsible for reporting monthly crime statistics to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Uniform Crime Reporting Program. This report is produced annually to document crime activity reported to these programs.

I encourage all criminal justice and other public officials to review this publication. If additional research or statistical information services about Missouri's crime totals is needed, please contact the Statistical Analysis Center for assistance.

SANDRA K. KARSTEN, Colonel  
Superintendent

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Missouri Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program has worked with Missouri law enforcement agencies to meet mandatory reporting compliance as mandated by Section 43.505 RSMo. On behalf of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Statistical Analysis Center, I would like to thank the Criminal Justice Information Services Division and Research and Development Division. Personnel in these divisions play an integral role in making this report possible.

In addition, Missouri law enforcement agencies that submit crime and employment information to the Missouri UCR Program play a critical role in development of this report. Their participation in the program is indicative of their desire to improve Missouri's law enforcement information capabilities.

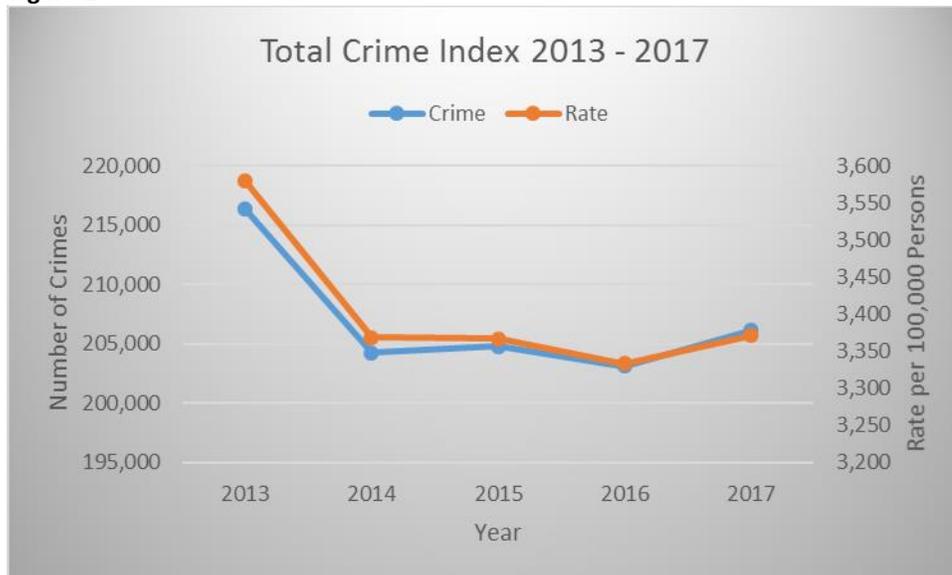
*Mark L. Ritchey*

Dr. Mark L. Ritchey, Director  
Missouri Statistical Analysis Center

### Index Offenses

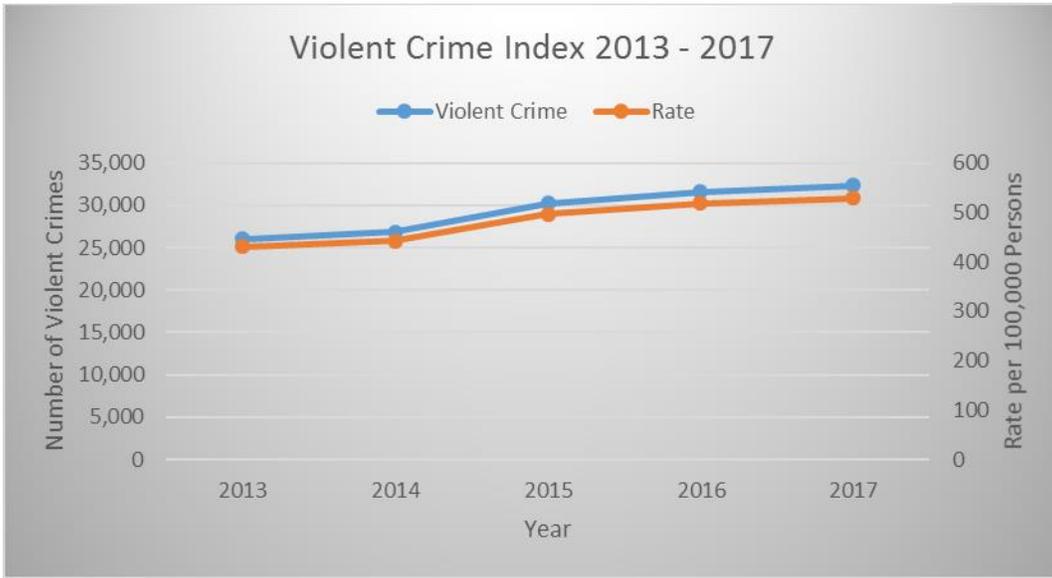
Part I index offenses include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and human trafficking. These offenses break down into violent index offenses consisting of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and human trafficking, and property index offenses consisting of burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. All other crimes are considered non-index or Part II offenses. In Missouri, a total of 206,101 index offenses were committed during 2017. By comparison 203,084 index offenses were committed in Missouri during 2016. Missouri's index crime rate for 2017 was 3,371.2 crimes per 100,000 persons. This rate increased about 1.1% compared to 2016. From 2013 to 2017, the total index offense rate dropped about 5.8% shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1



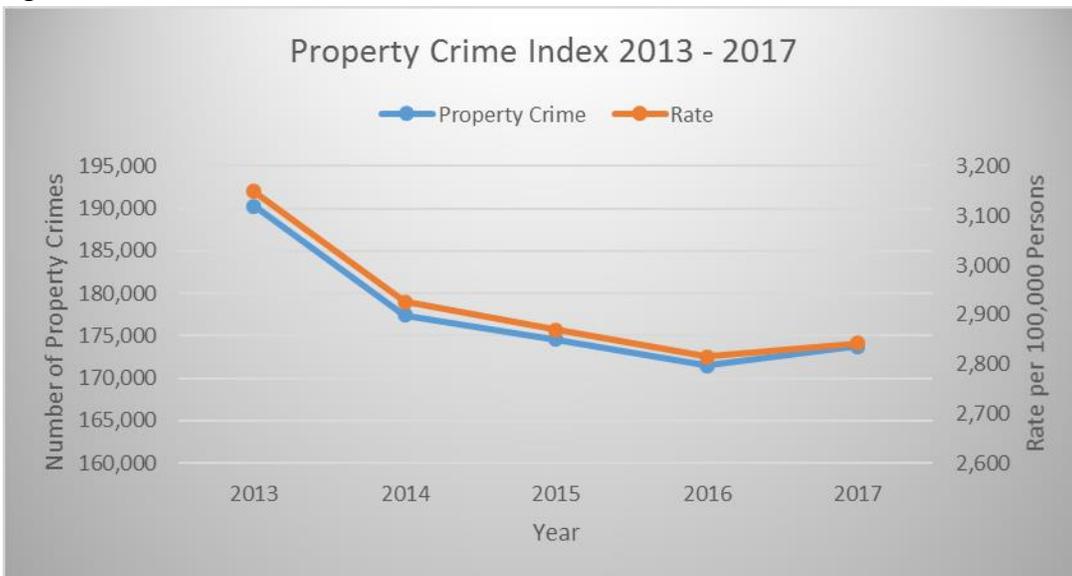
Violent index offenses totaled 32,348 in 2017, which produced a rate of 529.1 per 100,000 persons. This rate increased 2.1% compared to 2016. The violent crime rate increase is due to increases in murder, rape, and aggravated assault rates. Additionally, law enforcement agencies are improving their reporting of human trafficking incidents. In 2017, there were 29 reported human trafficking crimes compared to 17 reported in 2016. Reported incidents of human trafficking still only constituted 0.01% of all index crimes reported in 2017. Figure 2 shows that the violent crime rate has gradually increased from 2013 to 2017.

**Figure 2**



Similar to violent index offenses, Missouri experienced a slight increase in the number of reported property index offenses from 2016 to 2017. Law enforcement agencies reported a total of 173,753 property index offenses in 2017 compared to 171,513 property index offenses in 2016. The property index offense rate of 2,842.1 per 100,000 persons in 2017 is approximately a 1.0% increase compared to 2016. The burglary and arson rates both decreased from 2016 to 2017, but the motor vehicle theft and larceny-theft rates each increased over the same timeframe. Between 2013 and 2017, burglary, larceny-theft, and arson rates all decreased, which offset the increase in the motor vehicle theft rate during the same time period. This accounts for the 9.7% decrease since 2013 shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3**



### **Arrests**

Law enforcement agencies reported a total of 243,387 arrests in 2017. This is approximately a 2.3% decrease compared to 2016, and a 15.4% decrease compared to 2013. Index offense arrests decreased from 2016 by about 6.0% to 43,034 in 2017. Similarly, non-index offense arrests decreased approximately 1.4% compared to 2016 for a total of 200,323 in 2017. In 2017, the largest proportion of arrestees were male adults, accounting for 58.3% of index offense arrests followed by adult females with 30.4%. Male juveniles and female juveniles accounted for 7.7% and 3.6% of index offense arrests respectively. In terms of race, white adults were the largest group with 58.8% of index offense arrests followed by Black or African American adults with 30.3%. Other races include Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, American Indian or Native Alaskan, and Asian, but accounted for less than 1.0% of adult index offense arrests in 2017. Similarly, those with Hispanic ethnicity only accounted for 1.5% of adult index offense arrests.

### **Murder**

Murder is the least occurring offense of all index offenses but resonates most with the public. In 2017, 594 murders occurred in Missouri, producing a rate of 9.7 per 100,000 persons. The murder rate increased approximately 10.7% compared to 2016 and has also increased about 59.1% compared to 2013. Additionally, the 594 murders in 2017 only made up 1.8% of violent index offenses and 0.3% of all index offenses. Male adults made up the largest contingent of murder victims when grouped by gender and age whereas Black adults are the largest percentage of murder victims when grouped by race and age. In 2017, firearms made up approximately 87.4% of all weapons used in murders, compared to 81.0% in 2016.

### **Rape**

In 2017, 2,713 rape offenses occurred in Missouri, which is an increase from the 2,543 rape offenses in 2016. The rape rate of 44.4 per 100,000 persons in 2017 is an increase of about 6.3% compared to 2016. Rape offenses made up about 8.4% of violent index offenses and approximately 1.3% of all index offenses. The largest group of offenders arrested for rape in 2017 were still male adults, making up approximately 74.3% of the 595 rape arrests. The 595 arrests in 2017 are approximately a 6.3% increase compared to 2016 and constituted about 0.2% of all arrests in Missouri.

### **Robbery**

In 2017, there were 6,347 robberies and a rate of 103.8 per 100,000 persons. This rate decreased about 3.6% compared to 2016. Robberies made up about 19.6% of violent index offenses and approximately 3.1% of all index offenses. Like murders, most robberies are committed using a firearm (59.0%). In Missouri 47.1% of robberies occurred on the highways with the next most frequent location being residences (16.9%). Robbery arrests totaled 1,624 in 2017, which is a decrease of 17.8% compared to 2016.

### **Aggravated Assault**

The most frequent violent index offense during 2017 was aggravated assault with 22,665 offenses. These offenses constituted 70.1% of violent index offenses and 11.0% of all index offenses. Likewise, aggravated assault has the highest rate of violent index offenses, with a rate of 370.7 per 100,000 persons. This rate is a 3.1% increase compared to 2016. The aggravated assault rate has increased about 24.2% since 2013. While firearms again were most often used by aggravated assault

offenders, the difference between other types of weapons is not as great as it is in murders and robberies. Firearms were used about 39.0% of the time in aggravated assaults whereas hands, fists, feet, and other dangerous weapons were used in about 24.9% and 25.0% of all aggravated assaults respectively. Adult males and white adults represented the largest groups within the 7,293 aggravated assault arrests law enforcement agencies reported in 2017. Arrests for aggravated assaults decreased about 5.1% since 2016 but have increased about 0.9% since 2013.

### ***Burglary***

Burglary was the second most common property index offense in 2017, with 29,969 offenses. These offenses translated into a rate of 490.2 burglaries per 100,000 persons. Burglaries accounted for nearly 17.2% of property index offenses and about 14.5% of all index offenses. Burglaries occurred most frequently between 6:00am and 6:00pm at residential buildings. Residential buildings are mostly vacated during this time with people going to work and other activities, thus it is logical for most burglaries to occur during this timeframe. The burglary rate has declined since 2013; about 5.5% between 2016 and 2017, and 23.3% since 2013. Law enforcement agencies reported 4,082 arrests for burglary in 2017 representing approximately a 6.2% decrease from 2016 and about a 24.9% decrease from 2013. Male adults make up the overwhelming percentage of burglary arrests; representing about 67.9% of all burglary arrests.

### ***Larceny Theft***

The most common index offense, both violent and property, is larceny-theft. The 122,844 larceny theft offenses accounted for 70.7% of property index offenses and nearly 59.6% of all index offenses. Nearly 24.7% percent of larceny-theft offenses were from motor vehicle followed by larceny-theft offenses from shoplifting, representing approximately 23.5% of all larceny-theft offenses. The larceny-theft offense rate for 2017 was 2,009.4 per 100,000 persons, which was a 1.8% increase compared to 2016. Since 2013, the larceny-theft offense rate has decreased 9.6%. The 26,728 arrests in 2017 were a 5.3% decrease compared to 2016, and a 21.7% decrease compared to 2013. In 2017, adult males made up the largest portion of larceny-theft arrests, representing 50.5% of all arrests within this category. However, female adults also made up a large portion, represented in 38.0% of larceny-theft arrests. This is the largest percentage of female adult arrests for any of the index offenses.

### ***Motor Vehicle Theft***

With 19,885 offenses, motor vehicle thefts constituted 11.4% of property index offenses and 9.7% of all index offenses in 2017. Of all motor vehicle thefts, 69.4% of the stolen vehicles were automobiles and 19.3% were trucks and buses. The motor vehicle theft rate in 2017 was 325.3 per 100,000 persons, which is an increase of about 8.6% compared to 2016 and an increase of about 21.5% compared to 2013. The 2,627 arrests reported by law enforcement agencies for motor vehicle thefts are an increase of 8.6% compared to 2016, and an increase of 45.7% compared to 2013.

### ***Arson***

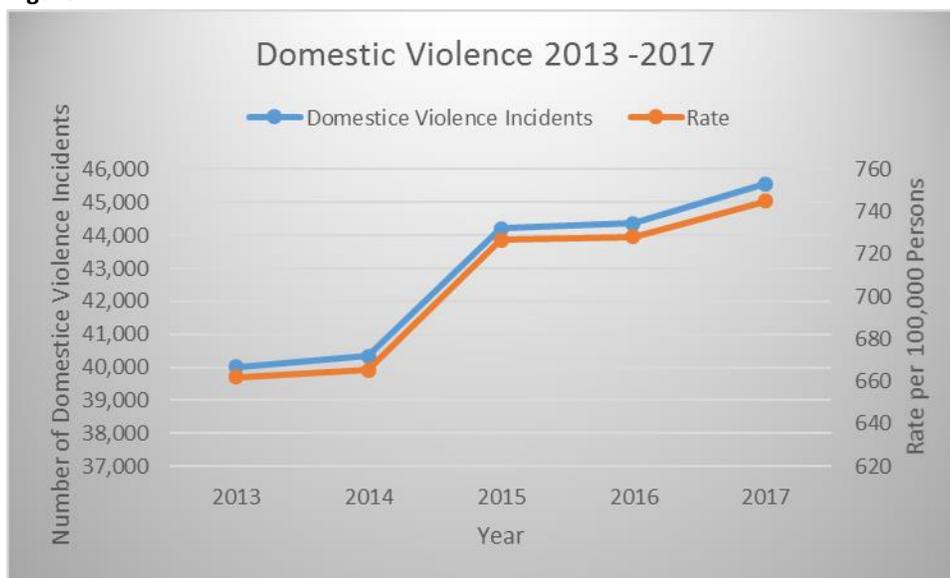
Arson was the least frequently occurring property index offense with 1,055 offenses in 2017. Single occupancy residential structures represented 38.2% of arsons, with the next most frequent structure being motor vehicles with 24.6%. In 2016, the arson rate was 22.1 offenses per 100,000 persons. This rate decreased 21.7% to 17.3 per 100,000 persons in 2017. The arson rate has decreased 13.4% since 2013. The number of arrests for arson was the smallest amount for any of the index offenses, excluding human trafficking, with 181 arrests. Adult males accounted for nearly 54.7% of

arson arrests, while juvenile males accounted for 22.1% of arson arrests. Arson arrests decreased 25.2% from 2016. In addition, since 2013 arson arrests decreased by 15.0%.

### Domestic Violence

Domestic violence incidents totaled 45,558 in 2017, equivalent to a rate of 745.2 incidents per 100,000 persons. This rate increased approximately 2.3% compared to 2016. Shown in Figure 4, the domestic violence rate has increased 12.6% between 2013 and 2017. One issue in domestic violence incidents arises when attempting to classify the relationship between the offender or offenders and victim or victims. There are several relationship classifications that law enforcement agencies use when defining domestic violence incidents. Incidents from social intimate relationships accounted for the most domestic violence incidents with approximately 21.3%. By contrast, incidents involving former spouses constituted the least amount of domestic violence incidents with approximately 2.0%.

Figure 4



### Law Enforcement

Law enforcement employment data are drawn from annual reports on employment submitted by law enforcement agencies to Missouri's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Employment figures include full-time sworn officers with full arrest power and civilian employees an agency has on its payroll as of October 31. They do not include part-time or auxiliary officers, nor does the data include federal law enforcement agencies whose jurisdictional responsibilities encompass the state of Missouri.

Law enforcement agencies employed 20,755 sworn officers and civilians in 2017. This number is up slightly from 20,621 in 2016. Sworn officers employed slightly decreased by approximately 0.2% to 14,770, and civilians employed numbered 5,985 representing a 2.8% increase from 2016. The number of law enforcement employees remained relatively constant over the last five years. Sworn officer and civilian employment increased 2.0% and 4.6% respectively compared to 2013, giving a total increase of about 2.5% for all law enforcement personnel employed.

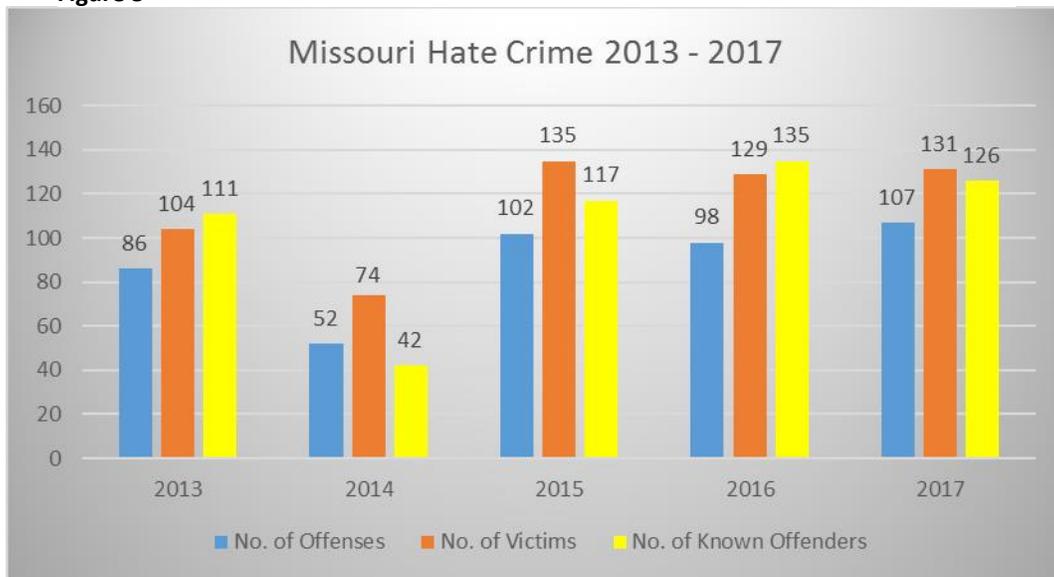
Being employed by law enforcement encompasses unique and often hazardous situations, especially for sworn officers. Unfortunately, there were two law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2017. Additionally, there were 2,032 assaults against law enforcement officers in 2017. This number is slightly higher from the 2,248 assaults recorded in 2016. The number of assaults resulting in

injury has also increased. In 2013, there were 522 assaults that resulted in injury, compared to 445 assaults resulting in injury in 2017. Assaults resulting in injury accounted for approximately 21.9% of all law enforcement officer assaults in 2017, whereas this percentage was approximately 22.4% in 2013. The type of weapons used against law enforcement officers that resulted in an assault show differing trends. The usage of a knife or cutting instrument in officer assaults were similar for both 2013 and 2017 at just over one percent. Firearm and other dangerous weapons were used 6.2% and 11.7% in 2013 respectively but were used 10.1% and 16.5% respectively in 2017. The usage of hands, fists, or feet has decreased from 80.6% in 2013 to 72.2% in 2017.

**Hate Crime**

In 2017, there were 107 hate crime offenses with 131 victims and 126 known offenders. This is a 9.2% and 1.6% increase in offenses and victims respectively. Known offenders decreased by 6.7% compared to 2016. Figure 5 shows that the number of offenses, victims, and known offenders decreased between 2013 and 2014 but increased or remained stagnate from 2014 to 2017. The number of offenses increased 24.4%, while the number of victims and offenders increased 26.0% and 24.4% respectively between 2013 and 2017. Most offenses had a bias of anti-race/ancestry. Of the hate crime offenders, 46.9% were white, 34.1% Black or African American, and 17.5% with an unknown race. In 2017, there were 77 hate crimes against persons and 30 against properties.

**Figure 5**



**Conclusion**

The tables presented on the Crime in Missouri website are the official crime statistics for 2017, which provide a plethora of statistical information. These tables provide in-depth statistics pertaining to the various *Crime in Missouri* topics. The online format offers two output options, PDF and Excel, to enhance the public's use, availability, and access. The Missouri State Highway Patrol appreciates the public taking the time to view *Crime in Missouri*. Comments or suggestions about this publication should be sent to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Statistical Analysis Center.